Health & Wellbeing Board

A meeting of Health & Wellbeing Board was held on Wednesday, 30th June, 2021.

Present: Cllr Jim Beall (Chairman), Cllr Lisa Evans, Cllr Jacky Bright, Cllr Dan Fagan, Cllr Ann McCoy, Martin Gray, Ann Workman, Fiona Adamson, Tanja Braun (Sub for Sarah Bowman - Abouna), Jon Carling, David Gallagher, Elspeth Devanney (Sub for Dominic Gardner), Levi Buckley (Sub for Julie Gillon)

Officers: Michael Henderson, John Devine (SBC)

Also in attendance: Alex Sinclair, Martin Short (CCG)

Apologies: Sarah Bowman - Abouna, Dominic Gardner, Julie Gillon, Jonathan Slade, Peter Smith Cllr Sylvia Walmsley

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

Reference was made to the minute relating to the SEND Strategy. Members were reminded of discussion, during the April meeting, when a member had indicated that they were aware of a family, resident in the Borough, which had struggled to access relevant services, for a period of 10 years. The vice chair of the Board, who was also the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, explained that the issue had been investigated and she clarified that the family, referred to, had moved to this Borough in 2018. The family had been contacted and had confirmed its satisfaction with the support it had received from local services.

Members were reminded that there were alternative routes, to the Board, for raising issues about individuals, or families. Members, who had concerns about specific cases could raise them directly with the chair or vice chair of the Board, or relevant director.

3 Impact of Covid 19 on Elective Programme - Presentation

Members received a presentation relating to the impact that Covid 19 had had on the elective surgery programme, both nationally and locally.

The Board noted that

- North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust was providing a full elective programme and was successfully managing any backlog, achieving 97% of 19/20 baseline.

- NHS system had submitted recovery trajectories for 2021-22.

- ICP partners were focussing on developing local system plans.

- Key aspects included understanding the impact on Health Inequalities and the workforce.

- Action specifically related to reducing waiting times and activity backlogs included:

  - Undertaking waiting list initiatives within NHS hospitals and facilities.

  - Maximising the use of independent sector.

  - Waiting list validation and clinical prioritisation of patients on existing lists.

  - Offering patients alternative choice of provider for their treatment.

Discussions:

- There was a planned reduction in activity, during August, to facilitate staff taking annual leave.

- Arrangements were in place that would allow elective surgery to continue, at green sites, should there be an increase in Covid 19 cases, in the community.

- The use of operating theatres, over the weekend, had been arranged to deal with some colon procedures.

- Health Inequalities had widened during the pandemic. The Trust and other health agencies worked to identifying all members of the community who needed treatment, as early as possible. The Board noted that, once on a treatment list, there were no variations in the time that people, from each deprivation indices, had to wait for that treatment.

- It was noted that a paper, on the wider determinants of health inequalities, would be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

- The use of the independent sector, to reduce waiting times, would mainly involve Ophthalmology.

- Patients were regularly updated on waiting lists and the risk assessment relating to their condition.

- Covid 19 had produced some effective ways of working in collaboration and these needed to be embedded in processes.

RESOLVED that the update and discussion be noted.

4   Outbreak Management Update – Presentation

Members received an outbreak management update and in summary, noted that:

- Stockton-on-Tees had the lowest 7-day infection rate in the North East.

- Stockton-on-Tees rate had increased in the last 4 weeks and in the last 7 days.

- All North East LAs had seen an increase in rate compared to 4 weeks ago.
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- Vaccination uptake in Stockton-on-Tees was higher than the national average.

- There had been 0 COVID-related deaths in Stockton-on-Tees since May 21.

- Widespread community transmission, particularly younger age groups and middle ages.

Discussion: -

- A concern was raised about the national booking system, around individuals potentially being provided with a second injection date, when booking the first, and potentially being unavailable for that second slot. This would be highlighted with the local Vaccination Board and the Newcastle Vaccination Team.

- Work was ongoing around delivery of booster vaccinations.

- There had been more outbreaks in schools, The Department of Education had indicated that there would be testing, on site, for schools, in the new term, which was causing some concerns.

- It was not clear if there had been sufficient numbers of the community vaccinated to keep the virus in check, plus new variants could arise.

- Members noted the success of the Melissa Bus, which was providing vaccinations to communities, such as the homeless and asylum seeker/migrants population.

RESOLVED that the update and discussion be noted.

5   **Members' Updates**

The Footsteps Youth Wellbeing Health Service had won the Mayor of Stockton on Tees' Health and Wellbeing Award.

The Oximetry at Home Service provided by Hartlepool and Stockton Health had

been entered for a HSJ award.

Patients, at GP surgeries, were triaged and continued to be seen by GPs when necessary.

Work on the JSNA had been affected by the pandemic but would continue to be developed.

A draft Inequalities Framework, developed by the Council, would be reported to the next Board meeting.

Members raised the issue of mandatory vaccinations of care home staff and concerns that it may causel some staff to leave their positions

6   **Forward Plan**

The Board noted its Forward Plan.